

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2407

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ADDIS ALSO PASS ASST SECY NEWSOM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS SU

SUBJ: SUDANESE MILITARY DISPOSITIONS AND PLANS

1. NEW MINDEF GEN KHALAFALLA TOLD ME NOVEMBER 7 THAT SUDANESE CONTINGENT IN EGYPT (WHICH WE STILL ESTIMATE AT SOME 4,000 COMBAT EFFECTIVES) WAS IN BATTLE ZONE "SINCE WHOLE AREA IS BATTLE ZONE". HE REFLECTED CONCERN SUDANESE WOULD BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN ANY RESUMPTION FIGHTING. HOWEVER, KHALAFALLA CONFIRMED GOS HAS DECIDED ITS ARMED FORCES, TOTALLING SOME 70,000 MEN UNDER ARMS, TOO LARGE FOR COUNTRY'S SUPPORT. (TOTAL IS NEARLY TWICE OUR PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING AND PRESENTLY INCLUDES EX-ANYANYA AND POSSIBLY POLICE AND OTHER SECURITY FORCES.) SUDAN WAS SPENDING 13 PERCENT ITS GNP ON MILITARY (ALSO ROUGLY DOUBLE PREVIOUS ESTIMATES). DECISION HAD CONSEQUENTLY BEEN MADE GRADUALLY CUT BACK SIZE FORCES, AND RECRUITING ALREADY SUSPENDED. KHALAFALLA SAID HAPPY STATE SUDANESE RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS

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DID NOT JUSTIFY LARGE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, THOUGH HE

NOTED MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN CIVIC ACTION PROJECTS
INCLUDING OPERATION PORT SUDAN.

2. KHALAFALLA SPOKE WARMLY OF HIS VISIT ETHIOPIA LAST
SPRING AND SAID SUDANESE TROOPS STILL ON SUDANESE/
ETHIOPIAN BORDER TO BLOCK SUPPORT FOR ELF. REFUGEES
WERE BEING ADMITTED SUDAN BUT THEY REQUIRED REMAIN
150 MILES INSIDE SUDANESE TERRITORY.

3. KHALAFALLA CONTRASTED CHINESE MILITARY AID FAVORABLY
WITH THAT OF USSR. SUDANESE HAVE NOT LIKED ATTITUDE
OF SOVIET ADVISORS AND DILATORY MILITARY AID.
SOVIET ADVISORS REMAINING SUDAN LIMITED TO FEW
AIR FORCE PERSONNEL FOR MIG AIRCRAFT AND NUMBER TECHNI-
CIANS. CHINESE HAD PROVIDED TANKS AND CHINESE-MADE
MIG-15S FREE, ALONG WITH ABLE, UNASSUING MILITARY MISSION.
LATTER HAS NOW RETURNED CHINA. KHALAFALLA SAID NO
PROBLEM OBTAINING SPARE PARTS FOR CHINESE EQUIPMENT.

4. COMMENT: WHILE SUDANESE TROOPS WILL REMAIN
EGYPT LONG AS REQUIRED, GOS CLEARLY HOPES FOR PROGRESS
TOWARD MIDEAST SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD PERMIT IT FOCUS
ON ITS DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS. BREWER

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